

Appln. No. 10/724,460

Attorney Docket No. 10541-1879

I. Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended): A combination of a fixed panel and a closure panel assembly for closing an opening defined in [[a)] the fixed panel, wherein the assembly [[comprising]] comprises:

an elongated guide rail attached to the fixed panel, the guide rail including a channel;

a sliding panel having an upper portion and a lower portion, and a runner attached to the upper portion of the sliding panel, the runner including an upper portion received [[for relative sliding movement]] within the channel of the guide rail for relative sliding movement within the channel, such that the sliding panel is movable between a closed position generally registered with the opening and an open position displaced in a first direction from the closed position;

a seal mounted on one of the sliding panel and a periphery of the opening;
and

a latch operative to urge the lower portion of the sliding panel toward the fixed panel, whereupon the sliding panel pivots about the upper portion of the runner to compress the seal about the periphery of the opening,

wherein the guide rail includes an engagement portion overhanging the upper portion of the sliding panel, and the engagement portion engaging the upper portion of the sliding panel to limit relative pivoting movement of the lower portion of the sliding panel away from the fixed panel.

2. (Original): The [[assembly]] combination of claim 1, wherein the channel of the guide rail includes an arcuate surface, and wherein the upper portion of the runner includes a tubular sleeve that is received within the channel.

3. (New): The combination of claim 2, wherein the engagement portion of the guide rail is adjacent to the arcuate surface of the channel.

BRINKS
HOFER
GILSON
ALIONE

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4. (New): A closure panel assembly adapted to close an opening defined in a fixed panel, the assembly comprising:

an elongated guide rail adapted to be attached to the fixed panel, the guide rail including a channel;

a sliding panel having an upper portion and a lower portion, and a runner attached to the upper portion of the sliding panel, the runner including an upper portion received within the channel of the guide rail for relative sliding movement within the channel, such that the sliding panel is movable between a closed position generally registered with the opening and an open position displaced in a first direction from the closed position;

a seal mounted on the sliding panel; and

a latch on the lower portion of the sliding panel, the latch being operative to urge the lower portion of the sliding panel in a first direction,

wherein the guide rail includes an engagement portion adjacent to the channel, the engagement portion overhanging the upper portion of the sliding panel, and the engagement portion engaging the upper portion of the sliding panel at least when the sliding panel is in the open position to thereby limit relative pivoting movement of the lower portion of the sliding panel in a second direction opposite the first direction.

5. (New): The assembly of claim 4, wherein the latch is operative to urge the lower portion of the sliding panel in the first direction only when the sliding panel is in or near the closed position.